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in the near future to some such discovery.—S. PRESCOTT FAY, *Boston, Mass.*

**Number of Species and Subspecies in the New A. O. U. Check-List: A Correction.**—In 'The Auk' for October, 1910 (XXVII, pp. 468, 469), the number of species in the third edition of the A. O. U. Check-List is given as 802, and the number of subspecies as 394, making a total of 1196 forms. Prof. W. W. Cooke later informed me that he made the numbers to be, respectively, 804, 396, 1200. A recount shows Professor Cooke's numbers to be correct, namely, 804 species, 396 subspecies, and 1200 forms.—J. A. A.

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## RECENT LITERATURE.

**Carriker on the Birds of Costa Rica.**<sup>1</sup>—In this work of some 600 pages, our knowledge of Costa Rican birds is brought thoroughly up to date. The author's style is pleasing and his method of treatment is both modern and comprehensive. A total of 753 species and subspecies is recorded, with full citations of Costa Rican references and many hitherto unpublished records, based chiefly on the collections of Ridgway and Zeledon, Carriker, Underwood and Lankester.

The local distribution is well worked out and treated in more detail than in any previous work. Under almost every species are interesting notes on the life history, from the author's own experiences, in many cases with descriptions of nest and eggs. These form an important addition to our knowledge of Neotropical bird-life. Under the Tanagers and Finches Mr. W. E. C. Todd has incorporated in the text many valuable critical notes. Keys are given to the species of most of the lower groups as far as the Cotingidae, with the evident intention of supplementing those in the first four volumes of Ridgway's 'Birds of North and Middle America.'

The 60 pages of introductory matter treat, among other subjects, of "Geography and Physiography," "The Life Zones" and "History of the Ornithology of Costa Rica." A Bibliography is of course included, and a comprehensive descriptive list of localities at which birds have been collected. Some general notes on the habits of both the winter visitant and the resident species are also to be found here. At the end of the volume is a large folding map of Costa Rica.

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<sup>1</sup> An Annotated List of the Birds of Costa Rica including Cocos Island. By M. A. Carriker, Jr. Reprinted from *Annals of the Carnegie Museum*, Vol. VI, pp. 314-915, with map. "Issued August 29, 1910."